

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION**

**In re: Susan Cicilline-Buonanno,  
Respondent**

**Complaint No. 2015-3**

**ORDER**

This matter having been heard before the Rhode Island Ethics Commission on June 16, 2015, pursuant to Commission Regulation 1011, and the Commission having considered the Complaint herein, the arguments of counsel, and the proposed Information Resolution and Settlement, which is incorporated by reference herein, it is hereby

**ORDERED, ADJUDGED AND DECREED**

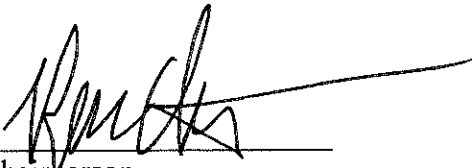
THAT, the Commission approves the Informal Resolution and Settlement as submitted;

THAT, the Commission incorporates by reference herein the Findings of Fact and Admissions, and the Conclusions of Law, set forth in the Informal Resolution and Settlement;

THAT, the Respondent violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(d);

THAT, the Respondent is ordered to pay a civil penalty in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).

ENTERED as an Order of this Commission,

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Chairperson

Dated: 6/16/15

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND  
BEFORE THE RHODE ISLAND ETHICS COMMISSION

In re: Susan Cicilline-Buonanno,  
Respondent

Complaint No. 2015-3

INFORMAL RESOLUTION AND SETTLEMENT

The Respondent, Susan Cicilline-Buonanno, and the Rhode Island Ethics Commission (“Commission”) hereby agree to a resolution of the above-referenced matter as follows:

I. FINDINGS OF FACT & ADMISSIONS

1. The Respondent is the Principal of the Gladstone Elementary School in Cranston, a municipal employee position, and has served continuously in said capacity at all times relevant hereto.<sup>1</sup>

2. On March 26, 2015, the Respondent declared her candidacy for the House of Representatives District 33 seat, following the resignation of Representative Donald Lally on March 17, 2015.

3. On March 30, 2015, the Respondent received the Narragansett Democratic Town Committee’s (“Town Committee”) endorsement for her campaign for the recently-vacated House of Representatives District 33 seat.

4. Following her declaration of candidacy for the House of Representatives District 33 seat and the Town Committee’s endorsement of her campaign, the Respondent sent two (2) email communications from her Cranston school email account to members of the Town Committee regarding her campaign for state office.

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<sup>1</sup> The Respondent also serves as a member of the Narragansett Town Council.

5. The first email communication was sent on Thursday, April 2, 2015, at 10:08 PM, and expresses gratitude for the Town Committee's endorsement and invites the members to an upcoming campaign meeting. The Respondent represents that she sent this email from her home using her personal computer.

6. On Sunday, April 12, 2015, at 9:09 AM, the Respondent sent another email communication from her Cranston school email account to the Town Committee members in which she invites them to attend a function at Two Ten Oyster Bar and Grill on April 19, 2015. The Respondent represents that she also sent this email from her home using her personal computer.

7. Both the April 2, 2015 and April 12, 2015 email communications contain the Respondent's electronic signature field, which includes her name, title as Principal of the Gladstone Elementary School, office address, and office phone and fax numbers.

## II. CONCLUSIONS OF LAW

1. As a municipal employee, the Respondent was, at all relevant times, subject to the Rhode Island Code of Ethics in Government ("Code of Ethics"), pursuant to Rhode General Laws § 36-14-4(3).

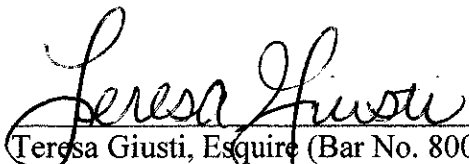
2. The Respondent utilized her Cranston School Department email account in furtherance of her campaign for state office by sending two separate emails to members of the Narragansett Democratic Town Committee, in violation of Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(d).

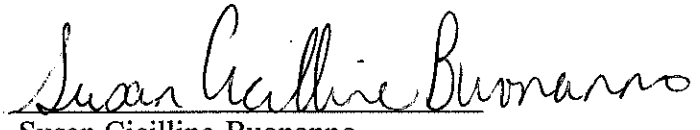
## III. SETTLEMENT

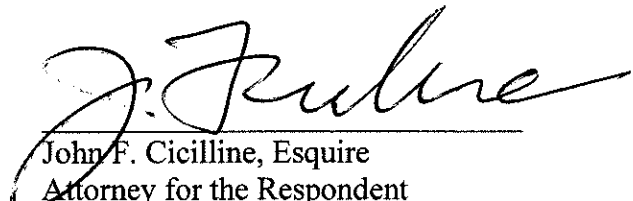
Pursuant to the above Findings of Fact and Conclusions of Law, the parties hereby agree, subject to the approval of the Commission, to the following, pursuant to Rhode Island General

Laws § 36-14-13(d) and Commission Regulation 1011:

1. The Commission shall enter an Order and Judgment that the Respondent violated Rhode Island General Laws § 36-14-5(d).
2. The Prosecution will recommend, and the Respondent agrees to pay, a civil penalty in the amount of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00).
3. The above terms represent the full and complete Informal Resolution and Settlement for Complaint No. 2015-3.

  
Teresa Giusti, Esquire (Bar No. 8006)  
Commission Prosecutor  
Dated: 6/15/15

  
Susan Cicilline-Buonanno  
Respondent  
Dated: 6/10/15

  
John F. Cicilline, Esquire  
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Dated: